

Committee on Government Reform

Tom Davis, Chairman



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Government Reform to Review Legislation Aimed at Reducing Paperwork, Bringing Regulatory Relief *Majority Leader Tom DeLay to Testify*

**What: Government Reform Committee Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2432,
the "Paperwork and Regulatory Improvements Act of 2003"**

When: Tuesday, July 22, 2003, 2:00 p.m.

Where: Room 2154, Rayburn House Office Building

Background:

The Paperwork and Regulatory Improvements Act of 2003 makes improvements in processes governing both paperwork and regulations. The goal of this legislation is to ensure additional paperwork reduction and regulatory relief to benefit average Americans. This bill also seeks to make information available to Congress that will allow Members to make intelligent decisions to decrease the heavy burden of Federal paperwork and regulations on America's small businesses and families.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) estimates the Federal paperwork burden on the public at over 8 billion man-hours. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) accounts for over 80 percent of the total. In its June 2003 task force report to implement the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act, OMB estimated that the cost imposed on the public for all government-required paperwork is \$320 billion a year. This amount does not include the cost of the underlying regulations for which the paperwork is required.

The bipartisan Paperwork and Regulatory Improvements Act of 2003 was introduced by Rep. Doug Ose (R-CA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs.

“The true cost of government is not just the amount of money the government spends. It is also the costs to the economy of the regulatory burden,” Committee Chairman Tom Davis said. “This Act is designed to aid Congress’ ongoing efforts to rein in the growing paperwork and regulatory burden on the nation’s citizens and small businesses. Congress and the public still don’t have accurate and timely estimates of what each program and rule will cost the people from whom we require compliance. It’s time to be honest with America about the costs of the programs we demand.”

Witnesses

The Honorable Tom DeLay, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

Dr. John D. Graham, Administrator, OIRA, Office of Management and Budget

Thomas M. Sullivan, Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration

Fred L. Smith, President and Founder, Competitive Enterprise Institute

Dr. Wendy Lee Gramm, Director, Mercatus Center, George Mason University, and former Administrator, OIRA, Office of Management and Budget

A witness from the National Association of Manufacturers

Raymond Arth, President and CEO, Phoenix Products, Inc, and First Vice Chairman, National Small Business Association

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